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# News from Region X

## Flood Risk Products on the MSC

Non-regulatory Flood Risk Products (FRPs) are now available on FEMA's Map Service Center (MSC)! This enhancement makes FRPs available in one authoritative location. Communities now have easy access to information that informs better decisions about preparing for and mitigating flood loss. Available FRPs include Flood Risk Maps, Flood Risk Reports, and Flood Risk Databases.

### How Should FRPs Be Used?

FRPs are not the same as regulatory flood hazard products (FIRM, FIS, and FIRM Database). Regulatory flood hazard products are mandated by law and are used by the NFIP for activities such as rating flood insurance policies or enforcing the federal mandatory insurance purchase requirements. FRPs are supplementary resources for understanding and communicating local flood risk to communities and residents. FRPs should only be used for review and guidance purposes. The data and information displayed in these products are the latest FRPs produced by a FEMA Risk MAP study and are not necessarily updated to match the regulatory flood maps.

*If you have any questions, please contact the FMIX at [FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com](mailto:FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com).*

### Ask the Help Desk

The Region X Service Center is here to help with all your Risk MAP needs. Email us at [RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

## Proposed Rule Change for State Mitigation Plans

FEMA is considering a change to submission requirements for State Mitigation Plans by reducing the frequency by which States must submit updates to FEMA on their State Mitigation Plans from three years to five.

The Final Rule will affect States that choose to submit updated Standard State Mitigation Plans or Enhanced State Mitigation Plans to FEMA for approval, and Indian Tribal governments that choose to meet the requirements for Enhanced State Mitigation Plans in order to qualify for increased HMGP funding.

The Final Rule will provide a number of benefits including aligning the State Mitigation Plan update cycle with the Local and Tribal Mitigation Plan update cycle and providing greater flexibility for States. The rule will also provide an opportunity for States to apply cost savings from the reduction in State Mitigation Plan update frequency to other means of increasing resilience and reducing risk to natural hazards.

*Read more about the proposed rule change and learn how you can submit comments at <http://j.mp/1kxmYa1>*

### Newsletter Ideas?

Let us know what you want to see in future issues! Email [RXNewsletter@starr-team.com](mailto:RXNewsletter@starr-team.com).

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## Beyond the Basics

### Best Practices in Local Mitigation Planning

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in



support of a number of partners has built a new website based on FEMA's Local Mitigation Planning Handbook that offers an easy to use interface.

If you've been procrastinating on putting together a hazard mitigation plan, there's no time like the present—especially since this new site will walk you through it step by step. The site contains a self-assessment tool, sample community plans and a place to share experiences and lessons learned.

<http://mitigationguide.org/>

## New Flood Insurance Manual

The NFIP Flood Insurance Manual is used primarily by insurers and agents selling and servicing Federal flood insurance. The 2014 edition is a complete reissue of the Manual, updated with program changes that become effective June 1. This release reflects changes required for the implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW12). Because the enactment of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (which repeals and modifies certain provisions of BW12 and makes additional program changes) occurred when the Manual was close to completion, the NFIP will be issuing adjustments to this edition at a later date.

For more information, visit <http://j.mp/Rd2D0V>.

## NORFMA News

### ASFPM 5K Run

The 5k run at the ASFPM Seattle Conference will open soon for online registration. Registration will also be available at the NORFMA booth at the conference.

### Floodplains By Design

Washington State Department of Ecology is soliciting for projects for the next round of grant funding. Projects are ranked for the multiple benefits they achieve: flood risk reduction, habitat improvement, agricultural sustainability, water quality, and open space/recreation. Applications are due by May 23rd.

Visit [www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov) for details.

### Conference Scholarships Still Available

Alaska, Idaho, and Oregon have awarded all ASFPM Conference scholarships, but NORFMA still has scholarships available for local government employees and elected officials from Washington.

Scholarships are available to reimburse 75% of conference registration fees (at the discounted rate), as well as eligible travel and lodging costs.

Please visit [NORFMA's ASFPM Conference website](http://www.norfma.org) for details and contact information.

## New Local Levee Partnership Team Factsheet

A new fact sheet detailing Local Levee Partnership Teams (LLPTs) is now available. LLPTs are the main stakeholder engagement mechanism for levee analysis and mapping for non-accredited levees. The fact sheet provides an overview of the analysis and mapping process, purpose and goals of LLPTs, and

## Upcoming Events & Training

(All times Pacific)

### Determining Base Flood Elevation

May 7, 10am  
Online\* - 1 CEC

### Elevation Certificates for A Zones

May 8, 10am  
Online\* - 2 CECs

### Floodplain Development Permit Review

May 21, 1pm  
Online\* - 1 CEC

### Inspecting Floodplain Development

May 22, 1pm  
Online\* - 2 CECs

### NFIP Basics

May 29, 10pm  
Online\* - 1 CEC

### ASFPM Annual Conference

June 1-6  
Seattle, Washington  
[asfpmconference.org](http://asfpmconference.org)

### Elevation Certificates

June 12, 10am  
Online\* - 2 CECs

### L273 Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP

September 29- October 2  
Lacey, Washington  
[ilyssa.plumer@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:ilyssa.plumer@fema.dhs.gov)

\*To register for online courses, visit STARR's training site online at [j.mp/starronlinetraining](http://j.mp/starronlinetraining), or email [RXTraining@starr-team.com](mailto:RXTraining@starr-team.com).

participant and meeting information. Finally, the fact sheet provides a detailed levee process workflow graphic depicting the various steps to analyze accredited, provisionally accredited, and non-accredited levees and as well as frequency of stakeholder engagement activities

Download the factsheet at [www.starr-team.com](http://www.starr-team.com).

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## L273 Coming to Region X

### Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP

September 29 - October 2  
Lacey, Washington

This course is designed for local officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. The course will focus on the NFIP and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinances administration, and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance.

The course is targeted toward local officials responsible for administering local floodplain management ordinances, including but not limited to floodplain management administration, building inspectors, code enforcement/zoning officers, planners, city/county managers, attorneys, engineers, and public works officials. Federal/State/Regional floodplain managers are also encouraged to attend. The course is designed for officials with less than three years of floodplain management experience.

The Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Exam will be offered on October 3, 2014, for those who are interested in taking it.

Space is limited. Contact [Ilyssa.Plumer@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Ilyssa.Plumer@fema.dhs.gov) if you are interested in attending.

Download the course announcement at [www.starr-team.com](http://www.starr-team.com).

